

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 22, 2002, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of the Japanese language document cited therein. As specifically stated in that March 22 Information Disclosure Statement, a concise explanation of the relevance of the Japanese language document is provided in the specification. Specifically, that document is discussed on pages 1-3 of the application, and in connection with Figure 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Information Disclosure Statement fully complies with the rules, and requests an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 accompanying that Statement, indicating the Examiner's consideration of the same.

Claims 1-13 and 26, are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 26, being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled Claims 14-25, and amended Claims 1, 2, 8-12 and 26.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 6 and 8-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant, however, has left those claims in dependent form inasmuch as Applicant believes the independent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Figures 1 and 2 stand objected to because they are not labeled as --Prior Art--. Accompanying this Amendment is a Submission of Substitute Formal Drawings, which attends to the changes to Figures 1 and 2 requested by the Examiner.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended Claim 26 to attend to the matters set forth in the Office

Action as giving rise to this rejection. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,561,538 (Kato). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As recited in independent Claim 1, Applicant's invention is directed to a display unit comprising (i) image displaying means having pixels arranged two-dimensionally, (ii) plate-shaped illumination means having fine light-emitting points arranged two-dimensionally corresponding to the pixels and positioned on the backside of the image display means, and (iii) fine optical elements for introducing light emitted from the fine light-emitting points to the respective pixels.

Thus configured, the pixels are located at the observer side of the fine optical elements. Further, the fine optical elements are positioned between the fine light-emitting points and the pixels.

The Kato patent does not describe the above-discussed arrangement of elements. In particular, as shown in Figure 1 of that patent, light transmitting points 4b are provided *in* the liquid crystal panel 1, and thus are part of a pixel portion. Further, that document does not describe that microlens array 5 introduces light from the light emitting points to the pixels.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Kato patent fails to disclose or suggest, at least, the features of fine optical elements for introducing light emitted from fine light-emitting points, which are arranged two-dimensionally corresponding to pixels, to the respective pixels, as recited in independent Claim 1.

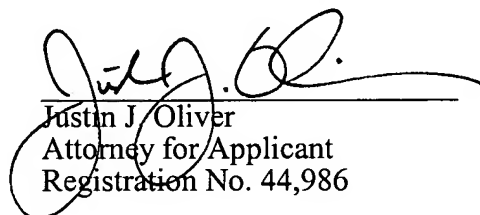
Applicant notes that independent Claim 26 is not rejected over the Kato patent. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that that claim is allowable over the Kato patent for reasons generally similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims are allowable over the applied patent, and requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent Claim 1, and thus are patentable over the applied document for reasons noted above with respect to that claim. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied document. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration thereof.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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